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E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/16/2019
TAGS: [KTIP](#) [ELAB](#) [KCRM](#) [KWMN](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [SMIG](#) [BA](#)
SUBJECT: BAHRAIN DISAPPOINTED WITH TIER TWO WATCH LIST
RANKING

REF: A. STATE 60495
[1](#)B. MANAMA 147

Classified By: CDA Christopher Henzel for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

(C) A/DCM informed MFA Bilateral Relations Director Dhafer Al Umran on June 15 of Bahrain's Tier Two Watchlist ranking in the trafficking in persons report to be released June 16. Poloff followed up on the morning of June 16, delivering the country narrative (ref A). Umran expressed disappointment with Bahrain's ranking, and was concerned how Bahrain stacked up against its GCC neighbors. He highlighted the GOB's work to raise awareness of TIP, and mentioned specifically Bahrain's hosting of the anti-TIP conference in March (ref B). He also argued that the closure of a number of low-rent hotels in April was intended to disrupt "prostitution rings," and that the women, "who were all trafficking victims," were sent home. Poloff noted that the April events occurred outside the scope of the current report, and assured him that they would be duly considered in preparation of the interim report later this year. Umran regretted that trafficking in persons was the one sticking point in an otherwise excellent bilateral relationship and said that the MFA will make a formal response to the embassy soon.

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<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/nea/manama/>

HENZEL